

The Research Process

Topic

Formulating and focusing the topic
Writing a thesis or research statement
Identifying major concepts
Identifying *Keywords*



Library Resources

Reference books - Overview of subject
Books - In depth information
Journals & Magazines - reports and research
Newspapers - Current Events and commentary
Internet - News, popular culture, and government information

Searching indexes and Databases

1. Choosing database based on subject and coverage
2. Subject vs. Keyword searching
3. Boolean logic
 - And (*narrows or focuses*)
 - Or (*expands*) Not (*excludes*)
4. Interpreting the Records
5. Locating the information (Full-text online or in the library)
6. Format changes: print, microform, and online

Evaluation of sources

Authority Who wrote it and what makes them an expert?
Accuracy Can the information be verified? (Citations)
Currency When written or published?
Objectivity Author, press, or origin of source. Is there a slant or bias?
Audience Scholarly or popular?

Citations

Cite your sources using the correct citation format
(MLA, Turabian, APA, etc.)

